

**FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND FIRE
MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY MAY 17, 2025 9:30AM
LOCATION: TOWNSEND FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETING ROOM**

ATTENDEES: Dawn Herlache Duane Bann Joni Bande Pam VanOss Wanda Laste

Kevn Osadjan Terri Heyrman Chuck DeMoulin Linda Ziegler Nancy Smith

Wanda Laste, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30am.


Motion made to Approve the Saturday March 15, 2025 FOTF Membership meeting minutes by Linda Z, seconded by Duane B. Motion carried.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/OLD BUSINESS:

- Annual Membership meeting minutes will be posted on the FOTF website within the next few days. Sorry for the delay.

- Quick recap of the FOTF Annual Meeting: Was well received. Members liked the overall presentation of the meeting with recapping the Past Year & looking into the Future. Elections were held voting back in the 3 existing Board members Dave S (17 votes), Deb F (16 votes), Anita S (16 votes). Thank you to the Elections Committee Joe, Terri, Nancy & Kathy. / 'Purchase' of the Can Truck was announced. / FOTF Books Audit is currently in process.

- Cans: Storm damage to the Little Tipsys Can Bin looks ok for now. Will review closer this coming week. / 'Purchase' of the Can Truck comes with added expenses (registration, insurance, upkeep). All these expenses had been reviewed prior to the purchase of the vehicle. \$ from cans is expected to offset these additional expenses. / Remember, this vehicle is for Organization Use ONLY, and not for Personal Use. / Due to the summer months coming we expect to be doing more frequent Can Hauls. Watch for emails for help. If you notice the Can Bins getting full, let Wanda or Kevin know. / Still looking for Can Collecting ideas for at Events. Need to promote the idea of separating Cans from Trash at Events. This will help us in the long run!! A Can Crusher was suggested..? / Next Can Run this Thursday (*NOTE: Changed to TUESDAY May 20th).

- Online Store: Check out our website & Online Store. Take a look & Buy something.


- Social Media: We had some people saying they were not getting emails sent from our .org email address. We did research and find nothing off on our end. If you were

having trouble in getting emails, please double check YOUR security settings. You might have a setting that is blocking .org emails thinking they are SPAM. / Take a look at the FOTF website. Secretary Anita added a scrolling Banner for Donation Thank Yous. It looks very nice!! / Minutes are now being posted on the FOTF website. The Online Store is also found on the FOTF website.

- Financials: Copies of an Article from Wisconsin Fire Journal was passed out. It supports how important Organizations like ours are due to Federal Grant & Funding cuts. / FOTF Audit is in process. We expect it to be completed in the next few weeks. Initial meeting & review was very positive. We are NOT expecting or suspecting anything wrong with our books, just would like a 2nd set of professional eyes on our books & possibly any helpful hints or recommendations.

- Grant Committee: We currently have five Grant applications submitted under FOTF and more Grant applications out under Townsend Fire. / Capital Credit Union APPROVED a Grant request for a majority of the costs towards materials for building a Gear Drying Rack. YEH!! / Next meeting is Thursday May 22nd at 1pm. All are welcome!!

- Budget : Copy of the 2025 Budget as of 3/31/25 was distributed. / Explanation that donations to 'Townsend Fire Dept' will likely be deposited to 'Friends of Townsend Fire' to keep these donated funds separate from the Towns Budget. / Recent Donations: Funds received for the purchase of a new Ice Water Rescue Suit and Funds donated towards Updating & Improvement of the Fire Dept meeting room.

- Fund Requests: Fund Requests are submitted to the FOTF Board for review. Most requests come from the Townsend Fire Dept but some are also Community supporting. Recent Fund Requests Approved by the Board: TFD Chief Computer \$1400, 4-Gas Monitor \$2700, Extrication Equipment \$34K, Fireworks Donation \$550.

- July 4th Report: SEVEN WEEKS TO GO!!! / Should have Raffle Tickets, Letters, Banners and Posters in from the printer next week. / Next July 4 meeting, Wednesday May 21 1pm at TFD. / See Linda Z if you can Volunteer for a shift on July 4. We need lots of help!!! Wide variety of tasks.. Sitting, standing, handling cash, handling tickets, fast paced or slower paced. / The July 4 subcommittee is collecting donations from local businesses. We have a 501c3 nonprofit letter to help with collecting. Still have some businesses open if you can try to collect from a few more. Try to get to these businesses BEFORE Memorial Day because things get VERY busy once summer hits.

- Townsend Fire Dept Report: Since our Organization was created to support the Townsend Fire Dept and our Community we will be adding a short section to each meeting for a Townsend Fire Dept report. / Numbers: The amount of times that TFD was paged out in 2023 = 40. Paged out in 2024 = 30. So far paged out in 2025 = 30 AND ITS ONLY MAY!!!! Some of the recent paged calls were... Tree on a power line

causing a fire, Wildland Fire due to burning cardboard getting out of control, and a UTV rollover accident. Please be careful out there!!! / Chief Herlache & Asst Chief Franzen met with a consultant to review the forming of a 5 Town Fire District. This is only in infancy stages and much more work needs to be done before this can take place. / Recent retirements from TFD: Claude B 44 yrs, Dave H 12 yrs. / Congrats to FIVE new Townsend FireFighter One's: Chuck, Bruce, Tom, Beth, Josh.

- For the Good of The Organization: We want to make sure we are not missing anything with our Organization. If you feel we should separate a task, maybe create a subcommittee for something or you would like to help in a certain area, please let any Board member know! Some examples are... Ray taking on the Grant Committee; Terri, Nancy and Kathy working the Elections Committee; and Kevin taking on the Can Collecting. Thank You All for Stepping Up!!

-DATES:

Brat Fry Today at Mikes Grocery For Wabeno Area Players. Stop by for lunch!!

Cans Tuesday May 20th. Starting at the Dump. 9am

July 4th Meeting & Stuffing. Wednesday May 21st 1pm Townsend Fire Meeting Room.

Grant Crew meeting. Thursday May 22nd 1pm. Townsend Fire Meeting Room.

Next FOTF Membership Meeting Saturday June 21st 9:30am Townsend Fire Mtg Room.

Motion made to Adjourn by Linda Z, seconded by Terri H. Motion carried. Adjourned 10:40am.

(Meeting minutes submitted by Wanda Laste, Chair. (In the absence of Secretary Anita Szyszkiewicz.)
5/19/25